

# Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs (JCEFA)

## Annual Impact Report 2024



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## Message from JCFA President Dr. Dan Diker

In 2024, relationships among adversaries and allies across the Middle East have shifted in the aftermath of Israel's post-October 7<sup>th</sup> eight-front war against the Iranian regime and its terror proxy network. The resulting dangers and opportunities affirm the critical role of astute policy, face-to-face diplomacy, and digital communications in strengthening Israel's position as the "strong horse" in the region. These forces of change drive Israel's ability to impact and influence government leaders, law makers, and media in the Arab world, its diaspora communities, Iran, the United States, and Jewish communities across the globe.

This fundamental paradigm shift in the Middle East provides Israel with a new opportunity to anchor the evolving relationship between the Arab Middle East and the West. This shift fuels the endeavors of the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs. The trusted voices of our experts, spoken in Arabic, Persian, and English are bearing an impact on decision makers and help to shape public opinion in the Arab Muslim majority region, the United States, and Europe.

The year 2024 has borne witness to a lethal hybrid warfare combining terror and narrative assault. This hybrid warfare is fueled by deception, disinformation, and delegitimization that emanate from Soviet, Nazi, and Chinese warfare strategies. The Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs mounted a counter-campaign to expose and disrupt the disinformation warfare driven by Iran and its Hamas terror proxy, which they conduct in tandem with the PLO and the Palestinian Authority. The stakes are high. We have encountered an erasure strategy bent on labeling Israel as a genocidal, apartheid, racist entity. Israel's adversaries are dedicated to undermining its legitimacy. This comprehensive warfare campaign targets Israel, the Jews, and the West equally.



JCFA President, Dr. Dan Diker, JCFA Mideast experts Mosab Hassan Yousef, Dalia Ziada, Hussein Mansour, and Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs and Combatting Antisemitism, Amichai Chikli, led a policy roundtable collaboration with the former Trump administration officials on concrete steps to tackle antisemitism on campus, Congress, and U.S. cities.



JCFA led the main session on How to stop Iran's race for nuclear and regional supremacy at the Israel Defense and Security Forum's Annual Conference. Pictured: JCFA President, Dr. Dan Diker, Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, Itay Medina, Former Senior Security Officer on Iran and IDF Intelligence, Lt.-Col. (ret.) Michael Segall.



In 2024, the JCFA “took off the gloves” to confront these threats:

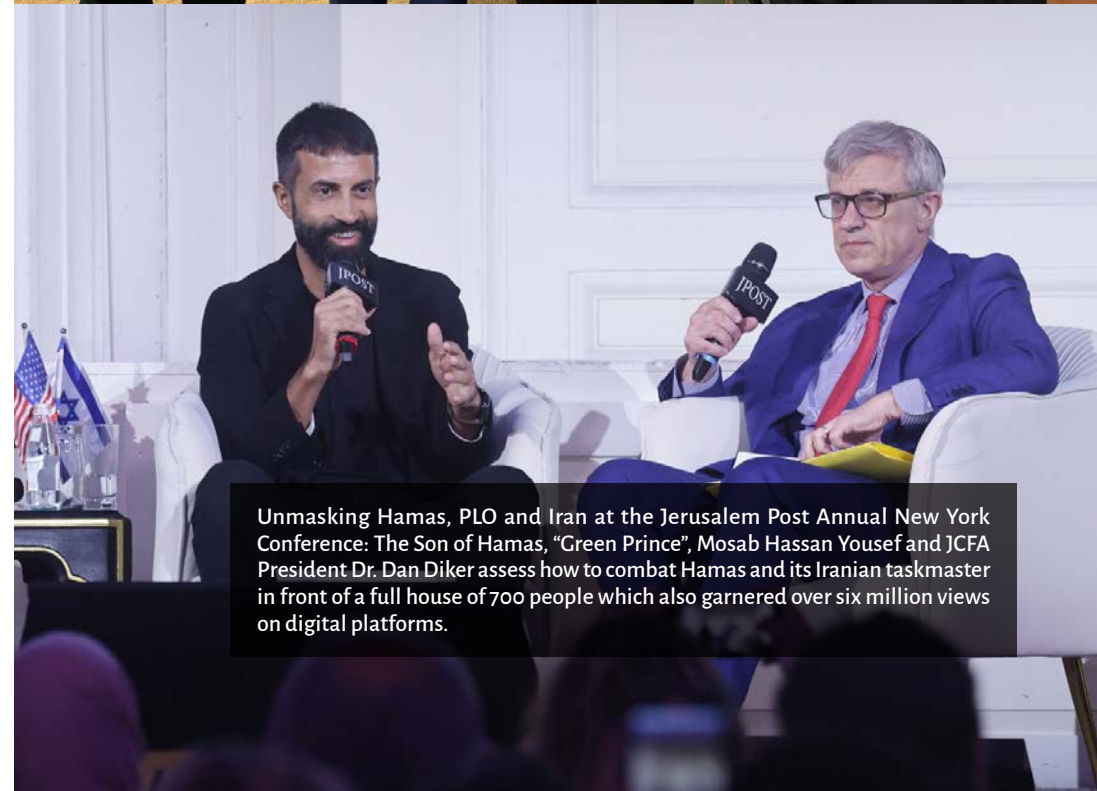
- a. JCFA’s Arabic, Persian, and English digital media initiative has exposed the Iranian regime’s terror proxies. The outcome: some 20 million views in its first months of operation.
- b. Our key role in the Jerusalem Post Annual Conference included a 30-minute strategic dialogue with Mosab Hassan Yousef and garnered over six million views. The Conference also established our new name and broadened mission.
- c. JCFA hosted a strategic roundtable with Diaspora Affairs Minister Amichai Chikli and American leaders from the first Trump administration. The focus is on fighting Hamas lies and strengthening Israel’s security in alliance with the second Trump administration.
- d. We launched and developed “under the radar” relationships with senior officials of several Arab countries without formal relations with Israel – paving pathways to Abraham Accord normalization.

### ***New Brand Name and Expanded Mission***

In 2024, the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs inaugurated its new name and expanded mission. Today, the JCFA has broadened its scope in allying with Middle Eastern countries and stakeholders promoting assertive public diplomacy, embracing allies and confronting adversaries in out-of-the-box activism in a region undergoing dynamic change.



JCFA advising the Knesset on Israel's Security and Foreign Affairs Committee meeting. Pictured: JCFA President Dr. Dan Diker, JCFA legal expert and advocate Lt.-Col. (res.) Maurice Hirsch, in meeting with Assaf Friedman, Director of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs committee.



Unmasking Hamas, PLO and Iran at the Jerusalem Post Annual New York Conference: The Son of Hamas, “Green Prince”, Mosab Hassan Yousef and JCFA President Dr. Dan Diker assess how to combat Hamas and its Iranian taskmaster in front of a full house of 700 people which also garnered over six million views on digital platforms.

## JCFA's Outlook for 2025

Our endeavors affirm Israel's position as an equal and indigenous member of the Arab Muslim majority Middle East, with the aim of maximizing regional security and stability and connecting the Middle East, Israel and the West.

The Arab world's perception of Israel as the region's "strong horse" has paved critical new pathways which optimize the prospects of normalizing relations with Arab countries beyond the Abraham Accords. The IDF has destroyed both Hamas and Hizbullah's command structures and leadership. Israeli forces have detonated much of their weaponry and ammunition stockpiles and decimated Iran's anti-aircraft defenses. For the first time in five decades, there are new possibilities to stabilize alliances across the region. JCFA is scheduled to lead several regional conferences and roundtables which deepen our diplomacy efforts with non-Abraham Accord countries. We continue to leverage our digital diplomacy via Arabic, Persian, and English interviews, podcasts, and briefs, which have garnered 20 million views in the past five months alone.

We continue to enhance relationships with Abraham Accords diplomats from Bahrain, Morocco, and the UAE, who have remained in Tel Aviv, as have ambassadors from Jordan and Egypt.

We are anticipating new opportunities that will emerge from our consultations with officials of the second Trump administration as we navigate the dynamic transformations underway in our region. For this reason, JCFA is leading an Israeli-U.S. Forum to recommend policy initiatives for the Israel-U.S. alliance.

**Thank you ever so much for your vital support. Your commitment enables us to influence and even transform the Arab, Israel, and U.S. alliance and strengthen Israel's relations with global Jewish communities.**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Dan Diker".

Dr. Dan Diker  
President, Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs



## Cultivating Regional Alliances

### *JCFA Senior Fellows are paving the way – from East to West*

Officials of five Arab countries who do not have formal relations with Israel have engaged in face-to-face meetings with JCFA Senior Fellows. These are first steps toward expanding the scope of the Abraham Accords.

JCFA Fellows conduct dialogues in Arabic, speaking the language that affirms Israel's cultural alignment with neighbors in the Middle East.

Thirty regional Arabic and Farsi journalists have produced scores of hours of content that is broadening the horizons of millions of listeners across the region. This is the JCFA Media Hub's latest and expanding initiative.

JCFA interviews, podcasts, and briefs have had over 20 million views in Arabic, Farsi, and English (since the media hub was inaugurated in August 2024).

Six million viewers watched “Green Prince” Mosab Hassan Yousef speak with JCFA President Dr. Dan Diker at the Jerusalem Post 2024 Conference. In Yousef's words: “Palestine is a device that the Muslims use as a weapon against Israel and the Jewish people.”





A rare and fruitful policy roundtable discussion among key figures from the first Trump administration and past U.S. officials, on U.S.-Israel collaboration post-October 7 massacre. Israel's Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Amichai Chikli; 'Green Prince' Mosab Hassan Yousef, American Jewish leaders, and JCFA President and senior fellows based in Israel and North America and senior JCFA board member, Alex Tsigutkin. Former U.S. officials present included former U.S. Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman; former White House Special Envoy to the Middle East, Jason Greenblatt; Dr. David Wurmser, former Middle East advisor to U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney. (June 2024)



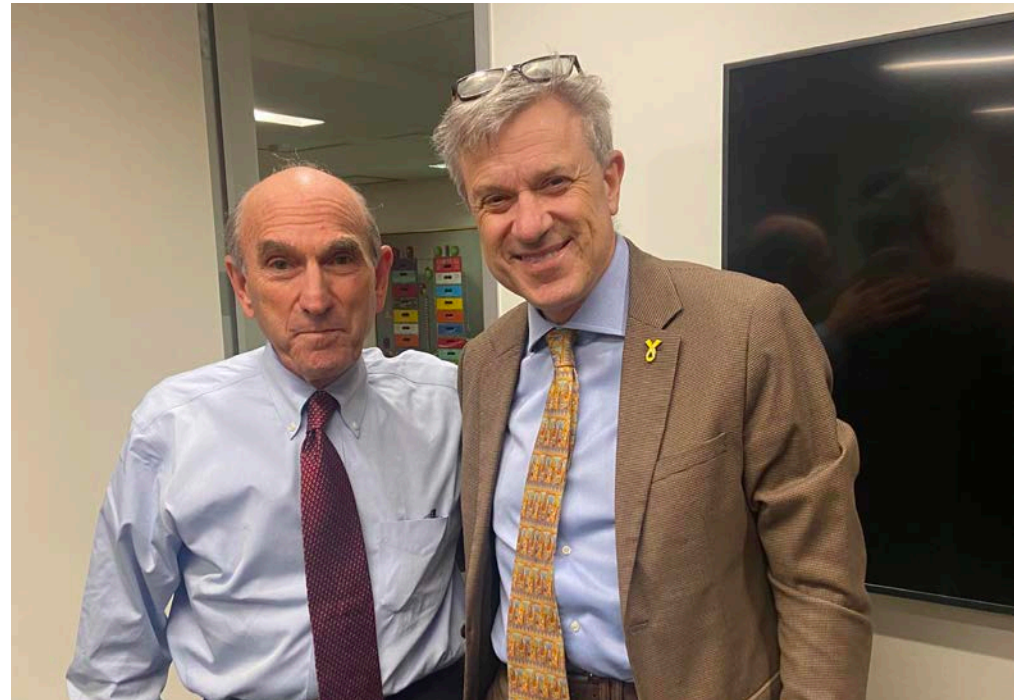
JCFA President Dan Diker addressed the Knesset Caucus on the future of Israel's relations with UNRWA, which included Knesset members of all parties and diplomats from more than 20 countries. From Dan Diker's testimony: *"UNWRA has become a weaponized organization of the Iranian regime."* (January 2024)







Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and JCFA President Dr. Dan Diker conferred on the “Day After in Gaza” and discussed strategic approaches to government communication post October 7.



JCFA President Dr. Dan Diker met with Elliott Abrams, former Special Representative for Iran and Venezuela in the first Trump administration, to discuss U.S.-Israel cooperation post October 7.





Hedge fund leader, Bill Ackman confers with JCFA experts. Ackman, founder of Pershing Square Capital Management, has emerged as one of the most influential and outspoken advocates for Israel and the Jewish people since October 7, 2023. At a meeting in New York City, they discussed critical pathways to combat the antisemitism that has permeated elite academic institutions in the United States. (November 2024)



Hazem Alghabra, former senior advisor to the U.S. State Department, joined JCFA President Dan Diker and Senior Fellow Khaled Abu Toameh in a discussion with leaders of the Republican Jewish Coalition and the Jewish Policy Center, about coalition building to influence and impact US Mideast policy.





JCFA Senior Fellows meet with diplomats from Abraham Accord signatories and countries that have not yet formalized relations with Israel. These meetings are under the radar; they allow for unique opportunities in which seasoned experts can explore sensitive issues with full discretion. The intent is for these meetings to be stepping stones to guide and support new paths forward between Israel and its regional neighbors.



JCFA Senior Fellow Fiamma Nirenstein was appointed the Foreign Ministry's Special Advisor for Combating Antisemitism by Israeli Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz. She has received more than 20 awards for incisive journalism and served in the past as a member of the Italian Parliament and Deputy Chair of its Foreign Affairs Committee. [June 2024]



Senior Indonesian religious leader of 200 million followers, Pak Yaya, met with JCFA to discuss normalization pathway between the countries. From the left: Cheryl Halperin, Holland Taylor, Dr. Dan Diker, Pak Yaya, Valerie Diker, Charles Diker and Professor Tim Shaw.



**Podcasts and conversations conducted by 30 Arabic and Farsi journalists, exposing audiences in Arab and Gulf countries to previously unheard perspectives on geopolitics, Israel, and prospects for new regional alliances in the Middle East.**



What Does Trump Mean for Israel and the Middle East? - Amb..Michael Oren, former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.



How I Escaped My Al Qaeda Terrorist Husband - Yasmine Mohammed





Former U.S. administration officials met with the JCFA president and senior fellows in Jerusalem. They discussed Iran, combating global antisemitism, and Israel in the post-October 7 era.

Present were Joel Rayburn (former National Security Council Senior Director for Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon), Marshall Billingslea (former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Negotiation Policy and Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing), and Russell Berman (Director of the Working Group on the Middle East and Islamic World, and past advisor to President Trump). JCFA was represented by President Dan Diker, Aviram Bellaishe, and Khaled Abu Toameh. (January 2024)



Dr. Dan Diker and Aviram Bellaishe met with former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to discuss the United Kingdom and Israel's common fight against antisemitism.



## JCFA Media Hub in Jerusalem

### *Interpreting the Middle East in the Post-October 7 World*

The new media hub of the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs is influencing and impacting government leaders, policy makers, shapers of public opinion media commentators, and the public at large. This space, inaugurated in 2024 in our Jerusalem headquarters, is powered by digital technology and tailored for face-to-face and remote exchanges among journalists, scholars, and thought leaders from the Middle East to the West. The JCFA Media Hub has become the home for dramatic deliberations and discussions in Arabic, Farsi, and English which have generated more than 20 million views across multiple platforms.

The audiences are from countries across the region, including nations in the Middle East and the Gulf countries. For the first time, audiences in those countries are being exposed to the perspectives of 30 local opinion makers JCFA has invited to conduct programs in the language they speak. There are also English podcasts which provide Western listeners with access to indigenous Middle Eastern activists and Israeli specialists in English who offer nuanced analysis that is too often absent in the mainstream media in the United States and beyond.

How do our listeners respond? They share and comment on the issues in forums from Facebook to Instagram and X.

These highlights are drawn from hundreds of podcasts and conversations offered by senior JCFA fellows in 2024.



Lea Goldin, mother of slain IDF soldier Hadar Goldin, whose body has been held by Hamas since 2014, in conversation with Peer Syed Mudassir Shah, a prominent Pakistani religious leader.



*JCFA will be leading education in the months—if not years—ahead, to help Western policy makers understand what is actually happening in the Middle East—that is, how Middle Easterners view the problems of the Middle East and what is needed to solve them. There is a stark contrast between the West’s perception of the Iranian threat, and that of the Arab nations, particularly in the Gulf. In the past few years, this has caused tensions, misunderstandings, and lack of trust between the United States and its best allies in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and most of the Gulf countries. They fear abandonment by the United States in confronting the Iranian regime—their primary enemy.*

**Dalia Ziada, human rights activist, author and senior JCFA Research and Diplomacy Fellow**



*You cannot, on the one hand, call for a ceasefire that allows Hamas to remain in power in Gaza, and on the other hand, talk about the deradicalization of Palestinian society. The two do not go together. The only way is to completely defeat Hamas and make sure it does not return to power in Gaza. This will embolden moderate, pragmatic Palestinians and probably other Arabs around the world to take over Gaza and embark on a lengthy process of deradicalizing Palestinian society. This will take another generation or two. It will not happen overnight.*

**Khaled Abu Toameh, Arab-Israeli journalist and Senior JCFA Fellow**





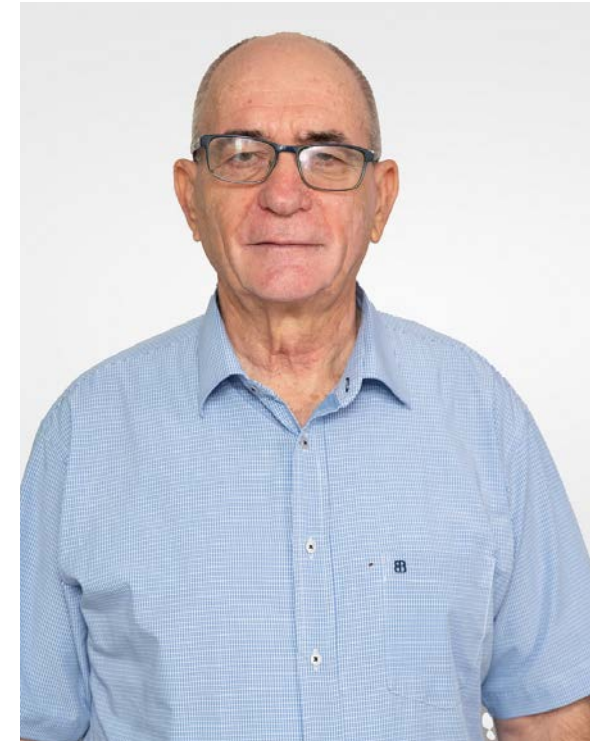
*The entire point of intersectionality is that all struggles are related. This has antecedents in the radicalism of the 1960s and 1970s. Back in the era of Fatah and PLFP radicalism, there were groups like the Japanese Red Army conducting a terrorist attack in the airport in Lod, the German Red Army, and the Italian Red Brigades. I wouldn't imagine that a radical Japanese communist back in the 1970s actually knew much about the history of the Middle East, the Arabs, or Zionism. It was the global struggle and all struggles are in solidarity. It is very, very similar to what is happening today, but it is now in the American style. That is why the Marxist connection matters. That is why it is very significant to see the extent to which these radical leftist theories are being so strongly advanced on the American university campuses today.*

**Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, JCFA Senior Fellow for Research and Diplomacy**



*The fall of the Syrian regime has changed the Middle East because you can't have an axis without its main wheel. That was Assad, who allowed Iran to use its territory to arm Hizbullah, and to send arms to Jordan and the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Iran won't influence Lebanon's governance now, which weakens Hizbullah and changes the power equation in Lebanon. Iran is also weakened by other events, such as the second Trump presidency. These developments forge new opportunities, including talk of dealing with the Iranian nuclear project. This is an impressive change in the landscape of the Middle East, especially in the aftermath of October 7. But our optimism needs to be cautious. It was the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham that took advantage of the weakness of Syria, and they are an offspring of Al-Qaeda and have close relations with the Muslim Brotherhood. That axis opposes Israel and the West, and also threatens Egypt and Jordan. We must be watchful.*

**Brigadier General (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, JCFA Senior Fellow and Director of the Project on Regional Middle East Developments**





## JCFA Leads the Charge to Disrupt Disinformation

### *Empowering a new generation to fight antisemitism in North America from University Campus to Congress*

**Q. What may be the best lifeline that can be offered to American college students overwhelmed by distorted narratives of the Israel-Palestinian conflict?**

**A.** The authentic voice of Egyptian-born human rights activist Dalia Ziada, a Senior Fellow of JCFA-North America.

In 2024, Dalia Ziada engaged with thousands of American college students on more than 25 university campuses across the United States. She is singularly well-suited to explain the most overlooked reality in American academia: The goal of the Iranian axis of evil in the Middle East is not only to destroy Israel but to dismantle the Sunni Arab Muslim states and replace them with its own invented radical version of Islamic Sharia.

Essentially, Dalia conveys, Israel and the Arabs are in the same camp. They are fighting a common enemy: Iran – also an enemy of the United States. She shares her empowering words drawn from her own life experience as an activist and a scholar who was forced to flee her homeland. Dalia's talks empower students and faculty alike.

In Dalia's words:

*I, a devout Muslim myself, am accused of being 'dehumanizing to Palestinian and Muslim students.' Well, let me tell you something. Many of my lectures have been attended by students from Arab and Muslim backgrounds who did not mind sitting in the same room with Israeli and Jewish students... I understand why Students for Justice in Palestine and similar organizations see me and other credible and genuine Middle Eastern speakers as a threat. They want to monopolize the narrative about the Israel-Palestinian conflict and Muslim and Arab issues so they can promote their twisted narratives as much as they want without anyone challenging their purposeful misinformation. We will continue to work hard to make peace happen despite the evil of Hamas, Iran, and their supporters worldwide.*

UC LA  
UC Irvine  
UC Berkely  
Stockton University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Ohio State University  
University of Cincinnati  
Central State University  
Wright State University

Youngstown State University  
Boston University  
Northeastern University  
Brandeis University  
Tufts University  
The University of Chicago  
Arizona State University  
Minnesota State University  
Michigan State University  
Wayne State University

## “Speaking Middle East”

→  
A new JCFA Arab Academy program, created by JCFA V.P. Aviram Bellaishe, on Arabic language and political culture offers some 40 university students exposure to prominent diplomats, security experts, and journalists to promote insight and dialogue with the Arab and Muslim world.



→  
JCFA Arab Affairs expert, Khaled Abu Toameh, leads discussion on Arab Israel relations at his home in Jerusalem.





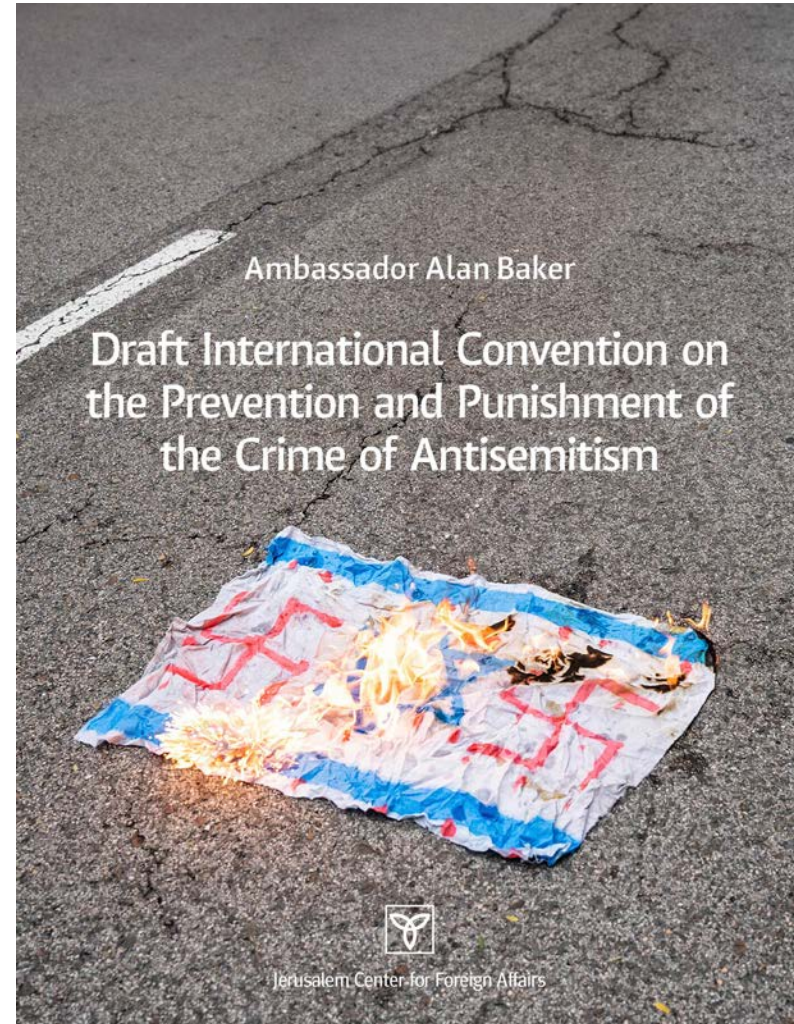
## The First International Treaty to Define and Criminalize Antisemitism

### JCFA: The Legal Basis for Criminalizing Antisemitism

Ambassador Alan Baker's *Draft International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Antisemitism*, released by JCFA in 2024, sets forth the legal tenets that would establish antisemitism as a criminal act that may be prosecuted by law. Ambassador Baker, a longtime legal adviser to the Israeli Government, proposed an "International Convention" which aligns with other international conventions banning genocide, racial discrimination, piracy, hostage-taking, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and terror. Its ratification would require its adaptation by other states and its approval by the United Nations. Those prospects are remote in the current climate, but it is precisely for that reason that it is urgent to set the groundwork for international recognition and prosecution of the brutal discrimination that has plagued the Jewish people for millennia.



Amb. Alan Baker

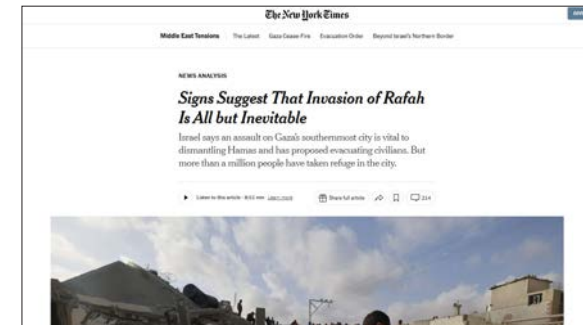


## JCFA in the News

The turbulence of 2024 has led editors and journalists to seek the analysis and opinions of JCFA Fellows on an entirely expanded scale. Below are highlights from both television and print:







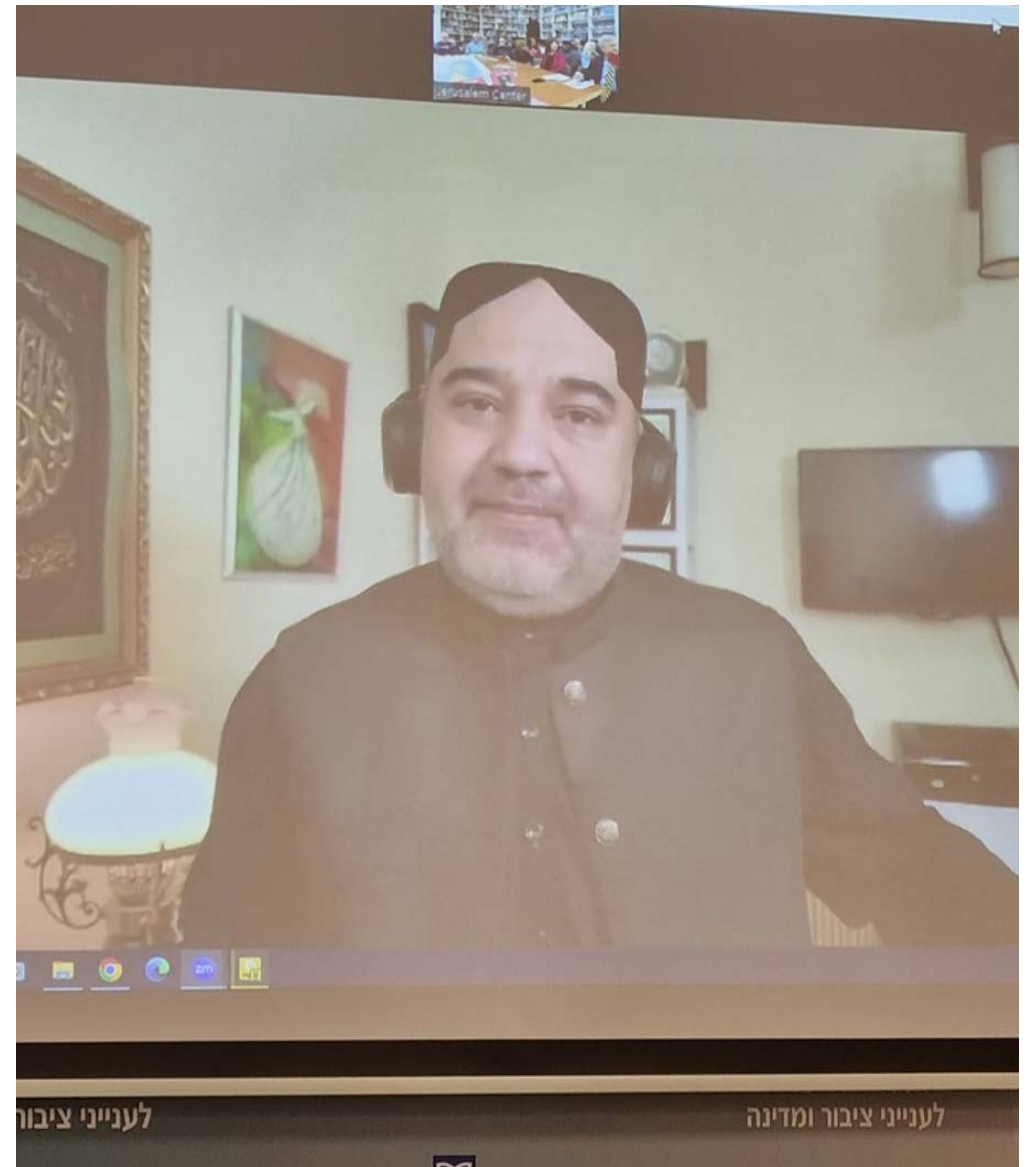
## A Historic Moment and a Tribute

JCFA's home and headquarters was the site for the launch of "Whispers in the Stones: A Sufi's Quest Through Time" by Peer Syed Mudassir Shah (right), a prominent Pakistani religious leader. (June 2024) President Isaac Herzog lauded the gathering, which marked the first public acknowledgment of the Jewish community that dwelled in Pakistan, which does not yet recognize Israel or its Jewish cultural heritage.

In Mudassir Shah's own words:

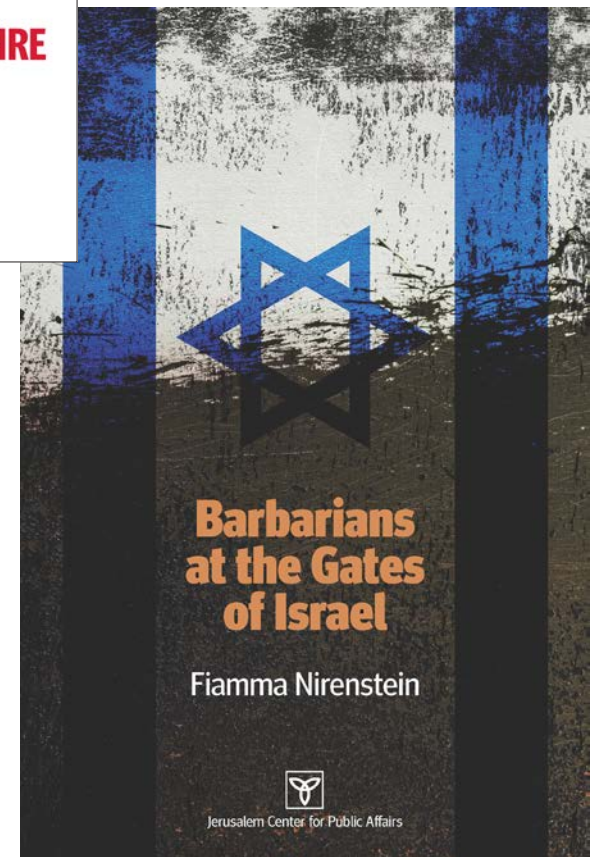
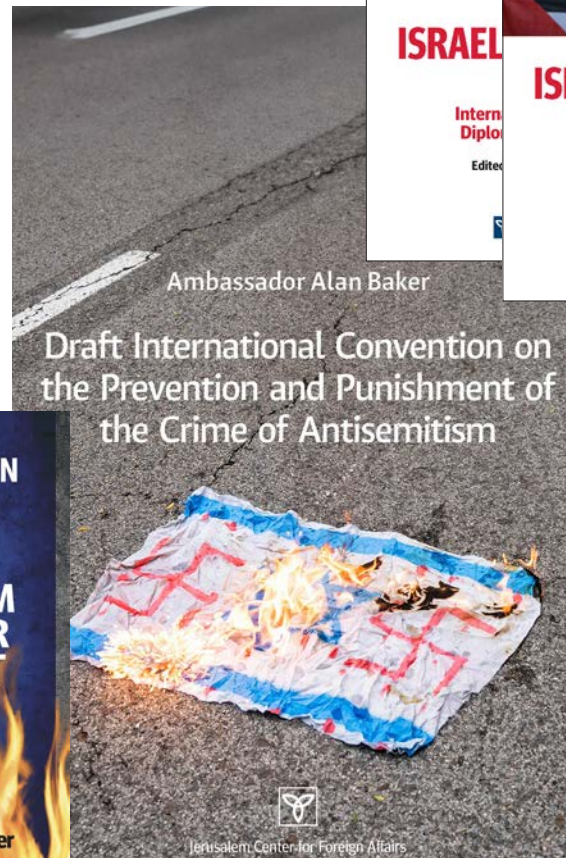
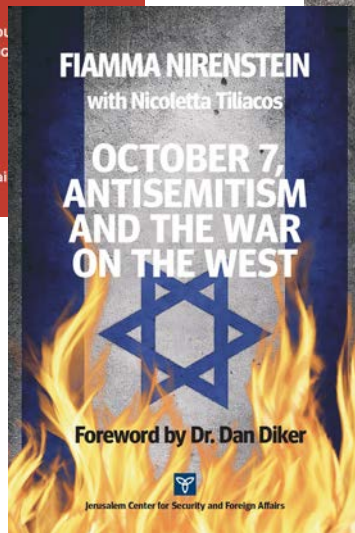
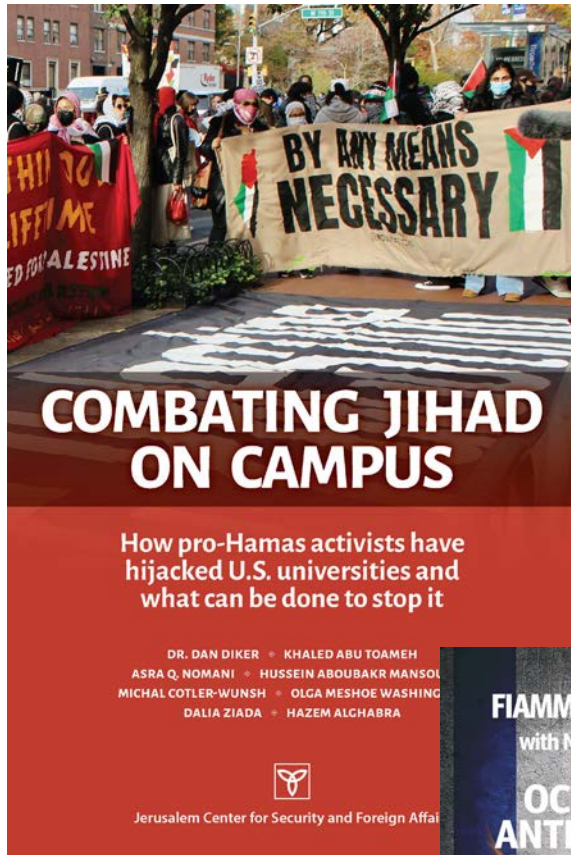
*I have been calling the government of Pakistan to recognize the State of Israel and establish official relations between the countries for years. The new book is a ray of light and a personal hope for our world, which needs more significant inter-religious, cultural, and social understanding.*

Our heartfelt appreciation to our friends and partners, who support all our endeavors. This special occasion brings to life yet another facet of our aspiration to promote historic opportunities for nations of the world to recognize the spiritual ties which bind all of human heritage.





## Major JCFA Policy Publications in 2024



## A Selection of JCFA Events in 2024

- January 17, 2024** - Consultation with MK Zeev Elkin
- January 24, 2024** - JCFA trusted partnerships conference with Arab and African partners
- February 1, 2024** - JCFA President Dan Diker and JCFA Expert Brig. Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser spoke at the Knesset's "Israel Victory Caucus".
- February 2, 2024** - JCFA Experts Brief Former U.S. Officials in Jerusalem
- February 11, 2024** - Consultation with members of Iranian Opposition
- February 14, 2024** - Strategic Roundtable: Defeating the "Red-Green Alliance"
- March 11, 2024** - Consultation with South Sudan Human Rights activist Simon Deng and Natan Sharansky
- March 27, 2024** - Book launch: *Whispers in the Stones—A Sufi's Quest Through Time* by Peer Syed Mudassir Shah
- April 1, 2024** - Round table on UNRWA with an emphasis on humanitarian aid
- April 11, 2024** - Book launch: *Barbarians at the Gates of Israel* by Fiamma Nirenstein
- June 10, 2024** - Lecture by Prof. Alvin Rosenfeld: Getting It from All Sides – Resurgent Antisemitism in Today's America
- July 29, 2024** - Lecture by Prof. Anne Bayefsky: Israel Under Fire – Anatomy of a UN Crime Against Humanity
- August 8, 2024** - Lecture by Lt.-Col. (res.) Maurice Hirsch: Israel's Relations with the UN
- September 10, 2024** - Book Launch: *Israel Under Fire* edited by Amb. Alan Baker
- October 7, 2024** - The Shabtai Shavit World Summit on Counter-Terrorism
- October 27, 2024** - Mizrach HaTichon Nachon (MK Ohad Tal)
- November 21, 2024** - LUNCH & LEARN | CEO Org - Penn Club



## Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs

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\* Member of Steering Committee

## *About the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs*

The Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs (JCFA), formerly the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, is Israel's first integrated policy research, diplomacy, and research center. Established in 1976, the Jerusalem Center helps secure Israel through alliances and partnerships in the Middle East and the West. The JCFA focuses on Israel's national security needs, particularly combating intensifying assaults on its international legitimacy in service of changing western public opinion on Israel and the Jewish people.

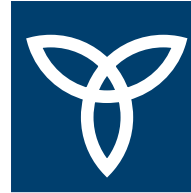
## *JCFA's Landmark Building*

The headquarters of the JCFA is located in Beit Milken, a landmark building in the heart of Jerusalem's Katamon neighborhood. The building, constructed in 1932, was originally designed as a stately home by Templar architect Herman Imberger. After the State of Israel was founded, soldiers of the Jerusalem Brigade resided there (from 1949–1957) and it served as the Embassy of Uruguay from 1957 to 1980. Afterward, it became the home of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.



## JCFA Logo

Our logo is based on the historic Bunting Clover Leaf Map, designed by medieval cartographer and theologian Heinrich Bünting. The map, published in 1581, places Jerusalem in the center of the world, connecting three of the world's major continents. The National Library of Israel holds one of the original copies of the late medieval map.



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## Thank you for partnering with JCFA

The Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs is a registered Amuta (non-profit organization) in Israel. The Center has a 501 C3 number since 1976. (Tax ID # 13-2992985) This is a solid institution in the U.S. and under Israeli law.

For those who wish to donate via bank transfer:

Dime Community Bank  
898 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, NY 11788  
Account Title: CENTRAL FUND OF ISRAEL  
Dime Community Bank Routing: 021406667  
Account Number: 5000221843  
Account Address: 461 CENTRAL AVE CEDARHURST NY 11516  
SWIFT code (international wires): BHNBUS3B

Please be sure to include your email address with contribution details.

Or if your financial office prefers to send a check, please send to the Central Fund of Israel (CFI) – their 501 C3 US federal tax id is: 13-2992985. US Dollar checks should be made out to the “Central Fund of Israel” and mailed to the following address:

Central Fund of Israel  
461 Central Avenue  
Cedarhurst NY 11516

\* Please be sure to attach a note requesting that the contribution be sent to the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs. If you request to designate your gift for a particular project, please include that as well. On the note line of the check, kindly write for Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs.

Your US tax deductible receipt will be sent you at the address you provide.

**Your support is deeply appreciated**